

Message Text

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, US, XF

SUBJECT: TALK WITH KING

1. THIS TELEGRAM COVERS MAJOR POINTS EMERGING FROM CONVERSATION WHICH I HAD WITH KING AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 25. SEPTELS COVER DATAILED POINTS.

2. HAWK: KING WAS PLEASED AND GRATIFIED THAT WE HAD SUCCESSFULLY PASSED CONGRESSIONAL HURDLE, ALTHOUGH HE HAD BEEN THROUGH A DIFFICULT AND TENSE TWO WEEKS. I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS SURE THOSE FEELINGS WERE SHARED IN WASHINGTON IN ALL PARTICULARS. HE ASKED FOR IMMEDIATE PROCESSING OF LETTER OF OFFER AND WE DISCUSSED ONLY BRIEFLY OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES ON DELIVERY SCHEDULE. WE WOULD LIKE LETTER OF OFFER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, PREFERRABLY BY SPECIAL COURIER. I AM DISTURBED THAT IF WE KEEP SITTING ON THIS QUESTION, WE WILL HAVE LETTER (POSSIBLY BY SPECIAL COURIER) SOMETIME AFTER THE END OF THE MONTH WHEN IT WOULD NORMALLY HAVE ARRIVED IF IT HAD BEEN POUCHED LAST TUESDAY. WE ALSO NEED AN ANSWER ON OUR SUGGESTIONS FOR HANDLING THE DELIVERY SCHEDULE ISSUE.

3. SYRIAN VIEWS ON INTERIM ACCORD AND NEGOTIATIONS, EGYPT AND KING'S VIEW OF DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIP WITH SYRIA: KING SAYS SYRIANS STILL VERY HARD NOSED ABOUT SINAI AGREEMENT AND WILL NOT MOVE TO PATCH THINGS UP WITH EGYPT. HE HAS ASKED THEM TO MODERATE THEIR CRITICISM. HE HAS LITTLE HOPE OF AN EARLY RAPPROCHMENT

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BETWEEN EGYPT AND SYRIA. ASAD, HE SAID, IS PREPARED TO HEAR, AND

PRESUMABLY WORK ON, PROPOSALS FOR A NEXT STEP IN GOLAN. SYRIANS COMPLAINED ABOUT THE PRICE PAID FOR THE SINAI ACCORD AND SAID THEY WOULD NOT DO THE SAME ON GOLAN. KING NOTED THAT SYRIAN VIEW IS THAT US HAS BECOME RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AGREEMENT AND THEREFORE BECOME THE OBJECT OF THEIR IRE ON THE SINAI ACCORD, PERHAPS MORE THAN ERUPT OR ISRAEL.

4. ON LEBANON: IT APPEARS KING HAS DRAWN BACK FROM HIS EARLIER ENTHUSIASM THAT SYRIA AND JORDAN MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING. SYRIAN REPORTS OF THE SITUATION ARE BLEAK AND KING SAYS SYRIA WILL PULL OUT IF THE LEBANESE DO NOT SHAPE UP THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT. SYRIANS BELIEVE THAT FRANJIEH IS INEFFECTIVE AND HELPLESS AND THAT OF ALL THE LEBANESE ONLY CHAMOUN SEEMS TO BE DOING SOMETHING. KING BELIEVES LONG RANGE REFORMS IN LEBANON REQUIRED, INCLUDING BETTER REPRESENTATION FOR THE MUSLIM MAJORITY IN POLITICAL AND MILITARY LIFE, A REORGANIZATION OF THE PRESENT ARMY TO BE MORE REPRESENTATIVE POSSIBLY WITH NATIONAL CONSCRIPTION, AND A SUBSEQUENT DISBANDING OF THE PRIVATE MILITIAS AND ARMIES. SYRIANS ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED THAT ISRAELIS MIGHT MOVE IN ON THE PROBLEM WHEN LEBANON IS AT ITS WEAKEST AND MOST DIVIDED, POSSIBLE AS AN EXCUSE FOR HAVING A GO AT THE SYRIANS. SYRIANS ARE BEING MOST CAREFUL IN THEIR PRESENT ACTIVITIES, KING SAYS, TO TRY TO AVOID GIVING THE ISRAELIS AN EXCUSE.

5. HAVING SEEN DAMASCUS' REPORT OF THE PRESS STATEMENT THAT KHADDAM WOULD NOT GO TO UN I ASKED KING IF HE KNEW OF KHADDAM'S PLANS. HE SAID THAT WHILE HE WAS WITH ASAD, KHADDAM HAD ASKED FOR MORE TIME IN SYRIA THEREBY DELAYING DEPARTURE FOR NEW YORK. HOWEVER, KING SAID HE THOUGHT THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN KHADDAM'S COMMITMENT TO GO, ONLY A DELAY BECAUSE OF KHADDAM'S PREOCCUPATION WITH LEBANESE PROBLEMS.
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